



Flathead Conservation District  
133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901  
www.flatheadcd.org 406-752-4220

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### **CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE**

Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the November 23, 2017, business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

### **Board members present:**

Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Dean Sirucek, Secretary/Treasurer; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; Lori Curtis, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board.

**Board members absent:** Mark Siderius, Supervisor; John Ellis, Supervisor. Absences are excused.

Also in attendance were: Valerie Kurth and Ginger Kauffman, Flathead Conservation District (CD) staff; Angél Rosario, NRCS.

### **MINUTES**

Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2017, 310-Stream Permit meeting as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Notice from Montana State Fund (Workers Compensation) regarding dividend.
2. Autumn 2017 issue of Lewis & Clark CD newsletter *The Explorer*.  
[www.lccd.mt.nacdnet.org](http://www.lccd.mt.nacdnet.org)
3. Email: McCone Conservation District has funding available for district-sponsored soil health projects. Eligible projects may include (not limited to) purchasing cover crop seeds (\$25/acre), soil health workshops or tours, Range management, and low stress livestock handling. Applications accepted on rolling basis.  
For more info, contact Emily Heide, McCone CD, [\(406\)485-2744 x100](tel:4064852744)  
[mcconecd@macdnet.org](mailto:mcconecd@macdnet.org).
4. Email: October 12, 2017 issue of Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) *The Montana Conservationist* [www.swcdmi.org](http://www.swcdmi.org)
5. Email: Whitefish Planning Board meeting, October 19, Whitefish City Council Chambers. [www.cityofwhitefish.org](http://www.cityofwhitefish.org)
6. Email: Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD and Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) Monthly Report for September 2017  
<http://macdnet.org>
7. October 2017 issue of Cascade CD newsletter *Conservation Chronicle*  
<http://www.cascadecd.com>



8. Email: October 19, 2017 issue of Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) newsletter *Watershed News*. **DEQ accepting public comment on Montana's Five-Year Nonpoint Source Management Plan.** To view the draft plan follow the links on the MWCC website <http://mtwatersheds.org>

### **FINANCIAL**

The following bills were reviewed:

1. CenturyLink \$265.92
2. Flathead Beacon \$168.44
3. VISA \$292.77

Lori Curtis made a motion "to approve the bills as presented." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one was present to comment on items not listed on the agenda.

### **310**

Weyerhaeuser, FL2016046, Twin Creek, permit extension request: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion "to approve a one-year permit extension." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Landowner Workshop Supplies:** Valerie Kurth reported on the upcoming Small Acreage Landowner seminar series. Discussion held. Lori Curtis made a motion "to purchase binders for the workshop." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**2018 Western MT Grazing & Ag Conference:** Discussion held. Lori Curtis made a motion "to support the Lake County Conservation District Western MT Grazing & Ag Conference in the amount of \$500." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Conference Room Furniture:** Valerie Kurth reported new chairs have been ordered for the conference room, and Lake County CD would be interested in the old chairs. Discussion held. Lori Curtis made a motion "to donate the existing conference room chairs to Lake CD." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Office Closure:** Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion "to close the office the day after Thanksgiving and allow staff to use comp or annual leave." Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



**Flathead County Planning Board:** Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion “to appoint Dean Sirucek to the Flathead County Planning Board.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously. *Dean Sirucek abstained from voting.*

**Records Disposal Request:** Discussion held. Lori Curtis made a motion “to approve the request for records disposal.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Budget** (September 2017): Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the September 2017 End of Month Report.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **REPORTS**

**FCD Staff:** Valerie Kurth and Cynthia Ingelfinger reported:

### ***District Office and Outreach***

1. October advertisements: Seedling program and Fall 310
2. Cynthia and Valerie, as well as most of the FCD board, attended the Area V meeting in Missoula on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>.
3. Valerie continues to coordinate 310-related communication among facilitate communication among DNRC, FWP, DEQ, Don MacIntyre (DNRC), Caitlin Overland (Deputy County Attorney), and the applicants (or their representatives) regarding the two upcoming legal processes (judicial review and arbitration). She is compiling the documents into an exhibit binder for the panelists and attorneys. She also researched team member report protocols and assisted with the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company application.
4. Valerie finished and submitted the final edits to the Flathead-Stillwater Watershed Restoration Plan.
5. Conference room chairs were ordered and are expected to arrive soon.
6. Valerie attended the River to Lake Initiative and River Steward meetings on October 11<sup>th</sup>.
7. Cynthia attended the Haskill Basin Council meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
8. Cynthia attended MT Land Reliance’s Agricultural forum on October 5<sup>th</sup> and had an FCD table at the event.
9. Cynthia and Valerie met with Scott Lawhead, a riverfront landowner from Columbia Falls, about riverfront property best management practices and the 310 Law.
10. Valerie attended the Kootenai River Network’s public meeting regarding coal mining in the Elk River Basin on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

### ***On-the-Ground Projects***

1. Trumbull Creek – Last summer FCD applied for a DNRC Renewable Resource Grant and Loan planning grant to do an assessment of Trumbull Creek (west side of Highway 2, between Conn and Birch Grove Roads). DNRC notified us last week that they are awarding us \$15,000, which is the full amount requested.
2. Cynthia, Valerie, and Mike Koopal (Whitefish Lake Institute) traveled to Helena on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> for the DEQ 319 grant panel presentation. Cynthia and Valerie planned and prepared the presentation in advance. Our grant application appeared to be well-received by the panel. Award notifications are anticipated by the end of October.



### ***Landowner Programs***

We have already received numerous inquiries from landowners about the seedling program, and two orders have been placed.

### ***Education and Outreach***

CORE – Cynthia has been editing the Flathead CORE website content and set up a website back-up system for the group website. She hosted the CORE Website committee on October 16.

Cynthia planned and led the Educational Trunk Workshop on October 19<sup>th</sup> at Lone Pine State Park. Fifteen teachers attended and learned about 11 local educational trunks, including the Rolling Rivers Trailer, which Cynthia and Tiffany presented.

Small Acreage Landowners Workshop – Cynthia has been working with Pat McGlynn to organize and plan a Winter 2018 workshop for small acreage landowners. We have filled all 35 participant slots and have secured 11 speakers for the 6-week series.

Samantha Tappenbeck, SWCDM submitted the following report:

#### Progress on Thompson River Basin WRP:

- Draft of sections 1-7 available; need further input to finalize sections 6 and 7
- Attended stakeholder meeting on 9/28/17 in Thompson Falls
- Due to busy field and fire seasons, stakeholders revised and finalized timeline:
  - 11/30/17:** Draft WRP sent to SWCDM
  - 12/31/17:** Final deadline for all input from stakeholders
  - 1/31/18:** Final draft of plan sent to SWCDM and DEQ for review and approval
- Another stakeholder meeting will be held in November (date TBD) to finalize WRP priority projects
- Site visit to McGregor Creek (Flathead County) on 10/5/17 with Brian Sugden (Weyerhaeuser) and Sarah Bowman (Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group)
  - Assessment of restoration needs and priority projects

#### Flathead River Commission:

- Workshop: **Stream Gaging in the Flathead Basin** scheduled for 2/1/2018
- Location: Kalispell, Montana FW&P conference room
- Draft agenda in progress
- Formal announcement will be circulated

#### Ranching For Rivers program (SWCDM):

- 50% cost-share funding available to landowners for projects to support responsible grazing of the riparian zone: benefits to landowners, benefits to the river
- Funding is from EPA, CWA section 319; Watershed Restoration Plan required
- Infrastructure: fencing, water tanks, water gaps, hardened crossings, etc.;
- Landowner agreements will be signed
- Certified grazing assistance plan developer services provided at no additional cost



- Next funding round in spring
- Contact me (406-291-6314) or Jess Makus at SWCDM (406-443-5711) for more info
- Opportunity for Flathead Conservation District to host workshop on riparian pastures

**Conservation Menu (SWCDM) [www.mtconservationmenu.org](http://www.mtconservationmenu.org)**

- SWCDM has released the Montana Conservation Menu website to serve as a hub/clearinghouse for all conservation-related programs
- So far, over 70 programs in six categories:
  - Water, Forestry, Soils, Weeds & AIS, Pollinators, Rangeland
- Consolidates diverse and numerous programs into one user-friendly format
- Program and organization/agency information, contact information, keyword search
- Further input welcome! Any suggestions or comments contact me (406-291-6314) or SWCDM main office (406-443-5711)

**Natural Resource & Conservation Service (NRCS):** Angél Rosario reported:

- Now that fire season is done they are working on payments, certifying practices and working in the field (EQIP & Conservation Stewardship programs).
- The Lost Trail project has been completed.

**Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD):** Pete Woll reported today's MACD board conference call included:

- SWCDM budget
- MACD convention agenda
- Supervisor Summit in Great Falls, 10/31 – 11/1

**Flathead County Planning Board:** Dean Sirucek reported the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting included a zoning change request, which was sent forward to the County Commissioners with a positive recommendation.

**Whitefish City Planning Board:** No report.

**Haskill Basin Watershed Council:** Valerie Kurth reported the meeting included the City Reservoir Management Plan and the Whitefish Municipal Watershed Project. There is also a new council member, Joe Krezowski.

**Flathead Basin Commission:** Dean Sirucek reported the meeting included DNRC budget cuts and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program report. Dean noted that the draft AIS rules and regulations (within the basin) are under review. The next meeting will be held November 15<sup>th</sup>.



**Flathead River Commission:** Verdell Jackson reported the meeting included discussion regarding the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe (CSKT) Water Compact, and status of United States Geological Survey (USGS) stream gages.

**Clark Fork Basin Council:** No report.

**Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3):** Lori Curtis reported the first UC3 meeting was held October 4<sup>th</sup> in Missoula. Five positions have been appointed by Governor Bullock, with nominations for four additional positions still being accepted. The next meeting date has not yet been set.

**MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF**

- District Insurance
- Arbitration pre-hearing conference - Tuesday 10/31
- Convention Auction
- Payroll Dates

The next 310-meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 13, 2017, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

Adjournment: Lori Curtis made a motion “to adjourn.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Submitted By: Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

11/13/2017	Ronald Buentemeier	Chair
(Date)	(Signature)	(Title – Chair etc.)

